Lithuanian Confession

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Lithuanian Confession

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Summary

Hannibal wants to confess weekly but he has a language requirement that he will not relax.

Notes

Previously posted on Twitter.

Hannibal had been a guest at the BSHCI for five months when he informed Alana that he wished to begin giving confession weekly.

Alana looked at her former mentor with suspicion but did not argue. The law was quite clear in regard to prisoners and their right to practice religion.

A few days later she returned with a priest.

Hannibal thanked them both but explained that his religious instruction had been solely in Lithuanian and he was uncomfortable confessing in any language other than his native tongue.

Alana objected. Lithuanian speaking priests were scarce in the U.S.

The judge disagreed. He told Alana to find a reasonable solution.

A few days after the ruling, Alana returned with a telephone. On the other end was a priest in Lithuania.

This time it was Hannibal who objected. Confession was an intimate act and could not be conducted via satellite.

This time the judge agreed with Alana. The Baltimore diocese had priests fluent in English, French, Spanish, and Italian. If Dr. Lecter insisted upon Lithuanian, a language with fewer than 3 million speakers, then telephone was a reasonable accommodation.

A few days later Alana returned with the telephone which Hannibal gracefully accepted. He noted that the priest was from Aukštaitija. Alana was learning.

Hannibal shared with his confessor how delighted he was with the furor generated by his request.

- Alana had wasted many hours in legal meetings and in court dealing with the issue while knowing that this was not a genuine desire on Hannibal's part.

- The Southern Baptist Convention, still bitter at having lost the Verger fortune, had happily sided with Hannibal on the grounds that his soul was in peril and Dr. Verger-Bloom was a God hating, atheist homosexual.

- Jack Crawford had been forced to issue a public apology after he told a reporter that any god who could forgive Hannibal Lecter was not a god worth worshipping. Hannibal had been particularly amused by that. It was like the foolish man had no idea about the religious climate of the United States.

- The religious right and civil rights advocates had found rare common ground with the argument religious freedom applied to everyone. Entire segments of Tucker Carlson and Rachel Maddox had been spent on the subject, both pro-Hannibal.

- Will Graham had angrily walked away from television reporters seeking comment on the situation. A picture of Will flipping off Freddie Lounds was now among Hannibal's most cherished possessions.

- Finally, Hannibal admitted that he had received no childhood instruction in Catholicism. He had grown up during the Soviet era after all and he considered himself a Romuvan.

Father Andrius told Hannibal that it was wicked to deliberately cause so much trouble. He told Hannibal to perform multiple prayers in penance which Hannibal absolutely did not. He did keep a running tally of how many Hail Marys he had been assigned.

Hannibal continued to speak with the priest weekly but never sought absolution. Instead he would spend the time reciting Dante. Hannibal translated the text from Italian to Lithuanian by memory alone and came to believe that, along with murder tableaus, that this was his true

artistic purpose in life. Days would be spent transcribing the words and illustrating specific passages.

After Hannibal's presumed death, Father Andrius became a great champion for publishing Hannibal's work. He insisted that Hannibal had died repentant and dedicated to contributing to Lithuanian culture.

The priest's commitment received the ultimate reward when he received an autographed copy in the mail. The note on the inside cover thanked him for his dedication and assurance that the sender had no plans to have him for dinner.

End

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